1:Beaglehole and Beaglehole E-5 (1934-5)1938 Pukapukans

of the god and placed in the god house. These prayers for good luck survive today in the prayer meetings that are held in the several villages before the fleets set out for a fishing contest and in the prayers that are said at sea before the first line is thrown overboard. In the story of Paniu (1) a fisherman gives some fish to his god after returning from an expedition, in order to thank him for his services. Informants were unable to state whether this was a common custom in former days.

A curious story is that of the man Taewa who became a successful fisherman even though he did not observe any of the fishing tapus:

> Taewa tried many times to be a good fisherman, but without success. Disgusted with himself after many years of effort, he decided that the only way to improve his fortune was to circumcise himself. He was the first and only Pukapukan man to do this. With a clam shell, he made a longitudinal slit in the foreskin, then slashed the skin till it hung in tatters. The wounds healed, and ever after Taewa had good luck in fishing. So fortunate was he that he could afford to disobey all the fishing tapus without suffering any penalties from the gods. He named the Black Nebula below Crux, Te Paniwi, because the shape of the nebula reminded him of the shape of the *paniwi* fish. Some say that Taewa was protected by a spirit in this nebula when he broke tapus, though none knows how this protection was exercised. Others say his luck was due to the fact that he always fished when Te Paniwi rose above the horizon and not at any other time. None could explain the effect of his voluntary circumcision upon fishing luck.

There was no method of catching whales. When a whale was stranded on the reef, a call was sent through the three villages. The women rushed off to the talo beds to bring back talo which they prepared for the men who went to cut up the animal. The work of cutting up was supervised by a priest of Te Maungatu, the god who was supposed in some ill-defined way to control the stranding of whales. The blubber was divided among all the people of the island. The vertibrae were used as seats; no use seems to have been made of the whalebone.

SIMPLE METHODS

Ill-defined methods of fishing—stone throwing or stone clubbing, stepping on fish, hand scooping, and hand flipping—are employed only incidentally to other activities.

> Stone throwing (*kawa hi te watu*) or stone clubbing (*patu hi te watu*) is performed by a man walking through the lagoon shallows who sees lagoon fish near by, often sleeping undisturbed at his approach. Fish killed by this method are yellow mullet, rock groupers, parrot fish, and flounders.
>
> When a man fishing other lagoon fish comes across a flounder resting on the bottom, he makes a quick jab with his foot to pin down the fish, then picks it up, and kills it by biting it behind the head.
>
> If a man sees a fish resting close by but can not find a stone or stick with which to kill it, he approaches quietly and, quickly dipping his hands into the water, scoops the fish onto the beach. This method is often successful with *tamayri*, *tupoupou*, *taotao-*

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NOOSING

226 284 Noosing (*yele*) is a common Pukapukan method for catching eels, sharks, swordfish, *matawula kakai*, and *pala*. No bait stick, whole fish bait, or special type of noose is used for the eels in Pukapuka, nor are sea centipedes or crayfish caught by this method, as is reported for Samoa (27, p. 421). The Pukapukan noose of three-ply twisted cord of *wao* fiber is made by passing a free end of the cord around the running section of cord and tying it around itself with an overhand knot. The noose is made about 3 feet in diameter. (See p. 188). Fishing is outside the reef:

A teaser bait (*pakupaku*) of bonito flesh is tied to a line and trolled behind the canoe to attract the fish. As the canoe trolls the teaser, the crew make their paddles resound (*tougi*) by hitting the water and beating the sides of the canoe with them. When the fish is seen, the teaser is pulled into the canoe, the noose placed on the *kauyele* stick, and the stick put into the water. Chum is thrown out to attract the fish toward the noose. The stick is withdrawn and more chum thrown into the water on the farther side of the noose. The noose is thus between two chums and is maneuvered so that even a wary (*koilopa*) fish comes up on the starboard side of the canoe. When the fish moves through the noose to reach the second chum, the noose is pulled tight around its tail. The fish is hauled to the canoe and clubbed before being lifted in. This method of noosing fish corresponds to similar methods described for Samoa (27, p. 421) and Vaitupu (19, pp. 56-60). In Pukapuka however there is nothing corresponding to the hurling of insulting remarks (*tapatapa*) to the fish to make them indiscreet, as Kennedy reports for Vaitupu.

TURTLES

225 Three varieties of turtle are common in Pukapukan waters: *matawao*, the largest green turtle; *wonu*, the ordinary green turtle; and *wonu kea*, the hawk's-bill turtle. When turtles are sighted from the shore, the news is called out through the village and the people ask, "E talau? E taepu?" (Is it big? Is it small?). There are three methods by which turtles may be captured:

1. *Puke wonu*, overtaking or seizing a turtle. A man swims out to sea in the season for turtles. He may swim several miles before he sights the animal. Coming up to a turtle, he gets on its back and gouges out its eyes with his thumbs, at the same time forcing the head of the animal upwards with hand pressure. As long as this pressure is continued, the turtle will keep to the surface and will not sound. Alternately the fisherman catches the foreflippers of the turtle with his arms and holds them up; this also prevents the turtle from sounding. If the fisherman is expert, he steers the turtle over the reef to the beach; otherwise he holds the animal until a canoe arrives from shore. An expert who is a good swimmer, strong and skillful, can bring a turtle ashore unaided. When turtles to be caught by this method are seen from a canoe, the first command is for absolute silence, for the turtle sounds immediately noise is heard. One of the crew slips into the water, swims up to the animal, and grips it as just described. His companions stretch apart the foreflippers, tie them to a stout stick, and lift the animal into the canoe.

2. *Yele wonu*, noosing. A man swims out to sea, often with a canoe outrigger as a float, while he waits to sight a turtle. When he sees one, he takes a line with a running noose in the end and dives and slips the noose over the foreflipper. The noose is pulled

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tight and the free end tied to the outrigger. As long as the turtle is attached to the outrigger, it will not sound. The fisherman waits for a canoe from shore. The turtle is lifted into the canoe and taken ashore.

In both these methods great care is taken to prevent the penis tail of the male turtle from locking the fisherman's leg against the carapace. Once this is done, the grip is vicelike; the turtle sounds, drowning the fisherman. The tail is also a formidable weapon. If it pierces the body of the fisherman, priapism and death are extremely likely. The male turtle is much more difficult to catch than the female.

3. *Wuli wonu*, turning over the female turtle on the beach. The turtle-laying season begins with the morning rising of the Pleiades and continues until their evening rising. Only the two green turtles lay eggs on Pukapukan beaches. The fisherman goes to the outer beaches and watches for turtle tracks or turtle nests in the sand. When he finds a nest, he counts the eggs. It is believed that the female turtle returns to her nest after a given number of days depending on the number of eggs in the nest. Thus if there are 120 eggs or more in the nest, she is expected to return in 8 nights to lay again; if there are 100 eggs, she will return in 10 nights; if there are 80 eggs, in 11 or 12 nights; if 60 eggs, in 14 nights. The outer beach is then watched on the appropriate night at the full of the tide. When the female turtle comes ashore, she is turned over on her back and rendered helpless.

Formerly all turtles were taken to the meeting place of the old men and there the meat, fat, eggs, and shell were divided among the people of the island. The man who caught the turtle was given its head besides his share of the flesh. For the old men were reserved the belly fats (*pukualonga*) and the major internal organs (*ngakau matua*). It was tapu for any others but old men to eat these parts on pain of sickness and grey hair. The custom of dividing a turtle among all members of the community survives today.

OCTOPUS AND CRAYFISH

The Pukapukan levies on other creatures of the sea or reef besides fish to provide him with food. The long-tentacled octopus (*wuke makatu loa*) and the short-tentacled octopus (*wuke makatu poto*) are caught for bait, but they are not eaten.

Formerly they were speared or fished with line and hook. Today a common way to catch them is to throw several handfuls of coral lime (*punga*) into an octopus hole. The lime dissolves and causes the animal to emerge, when it is speared or grasped with the hands. Squid (*muaka*) is eaten and used as bait. It is speared or caught with a hook.

Saltwater crayfish (*ula*) live in communities in large holes in the reef. Knowledge of these holes is kept secret by those fortunate enough to know them. One who knows where they are can pick out a crayfish from his hole at any time; others fish for *ula* in any likely hole on the reef shelf.

The best time for finding crayfish is on the first three nights of the new moon after moonset. Using a torch, a man visits holes of the reefs and picks out the *ula* with his hands (*lalao ula* or *tango ula*). Crayfish are caught also during the nights of the full moon at high tide. They are sometimes caught in torch fishing (*lamalama*) or in seine netting at dusk. A final method is to fish for them in holes, with a rod, a single-piece barbed hook, *kalama* bait, and plenty of chum.

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The flying-fish practice net (*tae penu*) used by young men to catch pandanus keys thrown at them in practice sport is of similar shape to the flying-fish net, but smaller.

It consists of a handle of *wetau* wood, 4 feet long and 1½ inches in diameter, a crossbar 8 inches long, ¾ inch in diameter, and two stout rods of pandanus wood, 3 feet long, which are fastened to handle and crossbar, the ends bent close together and tied without the intermediary of lighter rods (*matai*) used in the flying-fish net frame. The lashings of framework and attachment of net to frame are similar to those of the flying-fish net. The practice net is made of the two-ply twisted fiber from the aerial roots of *yuka* pandanus. The net is 13 inches wide at the mouth, 18 inches deep.

The large bird net (*wuata*, fig.45,*b*) differs in shape from the flying-fish net.

The net framework is attached to the handle in such a way that the distal end of the framework rises at an obtuse angle from the plane of the handle. The distal point of the frame is 10 inches higher than the plane of the handle. The framework when viewed sideways presents the shape of an enlarged spatula. When the bird catcher brings down the net upon a flying or roosting bird, the net is reversed so that the distal end of the frame is lower than the plane of the handle. A bird flying from the net is more likely to be caught by the downward projecting spatula-shaped net than it would if the net frame were in the same plane as the handle. The frame and handle are made of light wood so that the net may be easily used in the tree tops. The net itself is made of fine two-ply twisted sennit.

TRAPS AND SNARES

Because the fauna of a coral atoll is extremely simple, there are in Pukapuka only two types of bird snare and a form of the widely distributed western Polynesian rat trap.

The construction and operation of the rat trap (*vaka kiole*) are shown in figure 47. The trap is baited with mature coconut flesh (*ipiipi*) and set in a runway made by rats. The rat is removed by the owner of the trap, who resets the bait stick and spring mechanism.

The coconut-shell bird snare (*maenga kui*) is shown in figure 48,*a*. Another bird snare (*maenga tuli*), shown in figure 48,*b*, is set on the beach, weighted down with stones, and the birds driven through it.

Though not strictly traps or snares, wooden structures (*pa wonu*) in which turtles are kept may be described in this context.

Stakes of *puapua* or *pukoma* wood, each about 5 feet long and 1 inch in diameter, are driven into the sea bottom a few yards from low water level of the beach. The stakes are arranged about 1 inch apart to form a rectangular enclosure 3 feet square, and 4 feet high. The stakes are bound together at top and bottom with horizontal poles and a continuous lashing which makes transverse turns round vertical and horizontal members. Baby turtles, caught as they emerge from their shells, are placed in these enclosures. They are fed regularly on squid and octopus until they are mature enough to be killed for a special food division. The size of enclosures observed varied according to the number of turtles placed within. An enclosure of the above size housed two turtles with shells about 12 inches long. Bigger structures contained five or more small

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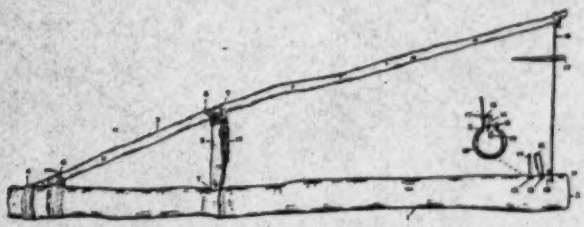
225/231 turtles. There are about three of these enclosures in each village. When the people of Ngake go to Motu Ko for the copra-making season, they take with them their small turtles and put them in temporary enclosures erected on the lagoon frontage of the copra settlements.



224/284 FIGURE 47.—Rat trap (*vaka hiole*) (C8171): trap (1) 2 feet 7½ inches long and 2½ inches in diameter at larger end, made of a section of pandanus wood, hollowed out at one end (2) into a hole 2 inches in diameter and 6 inches deep; a springy piece of *ngangie* wood (3) 2 feet 8 inches long and ½ inch in diameter tied to pandanus wood at one end (4) and supported by upright (5) 4½ inches high and ¾ inch in diameter; lashing of spring to trap (4) consists of 7 turns of two-ply twisted sennit around end of spring and trap; free end of sennit carried 1 inch up spring to make eight figure-of-eight turns (6) around spring and trap; finishing end buried, but not cut off flush with previous turns; upright (5) rests at one end in a natural depression (7) on upper surface of trap; upper end lashed to spring with common alternate curves pattern lashing (8); suspensory brace (9) consists of 4 turns of two-ply twisted sennit around spring and trap, transverse turns being seized with 23 transverse turns (10) finished off with half hitches; on either side of middle line at open end of trap, holes large enough to allow run of two-ply twisted sennit are bored through roof of trap just inside entrance (11); a little farther in, two holes (12, 13) are bored in median line; straight stick (14) pushed down through innermost hole (12) to support bait (19); loop of sennit (15) knotted inside trap so that it projects above trap to height of bait stick; length of sennit (16) knotted around free end of spring; after testing tension, a light stick (17) is fastened by clove hitches to sennit so that it passes through noose (15) and rests its pointed end on top of bait stick (14); end of sennit (16) pushed through hole (11), passed around inner circumference of trap hole, and pushed out through another hole where it knots (18); cross section shows sennit (16) passing around inner circumference of trap (2), knotted at 18, bait stick (14) baited (19), and light stick (17) passing through loop (15) and resting on top of bait stick (14); trap set by pulling down spring and passing stick (17), attached to sennit, through loop (15) and resting its point on upper end of bait stick (14) (see cross section). In this position, as long as upper end of bait stick remains immovable spring stick cannot fly back; sennit loop within trap spreads out so that a rat entering trap must step over loop to nibble at bait which is fastened to pointed end of bait stick before trap is set. Rat nibbling bait moves bait stick which releases light stick, spring flies up and catches rat against roof of tube by tightened loop. In use, trap is propped in position by stones and sand packed around and alongside it.

285 filled by the open ola and the tuluma of lau wal pakapaka.
177

225 [See 1: Beaglehole and Beaglehole, p. 69--analyst.] When the turtles are seen joined together in copulation, men swim out and surround the turtles. One man dives down underneath the turtle, and comes up to grasp the foreflippers, kapakapa. He pushes the head up, the rear parts are depressed, the man puts his legs around the turtle's body and holds it. His companions come up, stretch the foreflippers apart and tie them to a stick. The turtle is then lifted into the canoe and brought ashore.

526 Te Awuawu and Ngaliyeyeu were the originators of the game
776 Lukipoko, and through their teaching it to Wotoa and his friend, the game was introduced into Pukapuka.

776 [See 1: Beaglehole and Beaglehole, p. 308--analyst.] Atua punupunu [principal gods of the paternal lineages]: When asked the meaning of the word punupunu, informants say, "round". When reminded that the Pukapukan word for round is pukupuku and that punupunu is the Rarotongan word, then informants hedge and say the classification must be atua pukupuku. When asked to explain the meaning of such a classification, they say they do not know, whether it might have referred to a round stone that represented the god or whether to something else, informants simply do not know.

782 When the aliki [chief] or the wola [executive] go to pray to [the goddess] Taua, each takes with him lau niu or lau wuti which he ties round watu Taua. "This is to make the stone look pretty, glad, and happy so that it will listen receptively to the prayers of the men." No food offerings were ever given to Taua, only the wrapping of leaves.

539 Native texts.

The Revenge (Literally the Oven) of Two Girls. [For English translation see 1: Beaglehole and Beaglehole, pp. 379-380, category 116 or 539--analyst.]

Ko te Imu o Lua Tamawine. No Tonga laua. Eia lua o laua kainga: ko Manawune ma Tangaloa. Wo loa lua tamawine ia ki Yayake. Wekake loa lunga o Na Tua Wuewue. Ta mako loa laua. Wakalongolongo loa te wenua ia i te leleka o laua leo. Wo loa ia te wenua ia ki a Tuyimate. Ikiiki mai loa ki te